

NB

NEWPORT BEACH MAGAZINE

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HOME & DECOR
SPECIAL SECTION

OUTDOOR RETREATS

THE LATEST PATIO DESIGN TRENDS

HIGH-TECH HOMES

SMART ADDITIONS FOR EVERY ROOM

MAKEOVER MASTER

TALKING WITH HGTV STAR TAREK EL MOUSSA

SENIOR LIVING

LUXURY COMMUNITIES FOR OLDER RESIDENTS

HIT THE ROAD WITH
THE JAGUAR F-TYPE

TGR FOUNDATION PARTNERS
WITH FIND YOUR GRIND

EBB & FLOW

KEEPING CURRENT ON THE COAST

FOSTERING DESIGN

Interior designers Anna-Marie Claassen of Anthology Interiors in Newport Beach and Tania Cassill of huit in Laguna Beach recently teamed up to create the living spaces at a dorm building for foster youth attending Samueli Academy, a free, public charter high school in Santa Ana. Cassill and Claassen donated their time and expertise as well as decor pieces to style the area where 16 students will hang out, study, cook and eat together during the week once the dorm opens, providing support and stability to help them succeed; on weekends, the teens will stay with foster families. Divided into east and west suites, the dorm features fun, modern furniture and details like a U-shaped sofa with bright-colored throw pillows and a kitchen island with stools for several students to do homework, eat or chat, creating an inviting place to build community. The dorms will open as soon as Orangewood Foundation, which runs the school and raised money to construct the dorm building, has found enough foster families for the youth that will be living on campus during the school week. To learn more about fostering a local teen, visit orangewoodfoundation.org/ycp or contact Jami DeChaney Sheridan, director of the Youth Connected Program, at jdechaney@orangewoodfoundation.org —*Sharon Stello*



Anthology Interiors' Anna-Marie Claassen (left) helped create this new space for students at Samueli Academy.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL

Starting in June, the Environmental Nature Center will reopen to the public for visits on Saturdays and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. It remains closed to the public during the week, except for those attending scheduled programs that they have registered for in advance; masks must be worn by all visitors. During the month of May, self-guided events ranged from forest bathing to bird-watching hours. And herbalist William Broen led a small group walk to talk about native plant uses. Coming up, a wine walk is planned from 4-8 p.m. on June 26 with arrival times staggered to limit the number of people at tasting stations at the same time (tickets are required). Participants will walk along the trails to taste varietals from several California wineries with small bites provided in individual portions. Notably, the ENC has also partnered with OC-based Dolce Picnics to bring curated picnics to the center's natural setting. Choose a site under the redwoods, next to a babbling creek or on a terrace surrounded by wildflowers. The package for two people includes a charcuterie board, dessert, sparkling lemonade and water as well as a table, poufs for sitting on, a rug, blankets, card games, Bluetooth speakers, a floral arrangement, candles, decor and more. [Environmental Nature Center: 949-645-8489; encenter.org] [Dolce Picnics: 949-201-3348; dolcepics.com] —S.S.



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